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9-9-2020

### Montana Kaimin, September 9, 2020

Students of the University of Montana, Missoula

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# MONTANA KAIMIN

## SLICES OF LIFE:

STUDENTS REFLECT ON CAMPUS LIVING IN A PANDEMIC

STORY BY NIKKI ZAMBON

PHOTOS BY EMMA SMITH



Volume 123  
Issue No. 4,  
September 9,  
2020

# Kiosk

Cover photo  
Emma Smith



The Montana Kaimin is a weekly independent student newspaper at the University of Montana. The Kaimin office and the University of Montana are located on land originally inhabited by the Salish People. Kaimin is a derivative of a Salish language word, "Qe'ymin," that is pronounced kay-MEEN and means "book," "message," or "paper that brings news."

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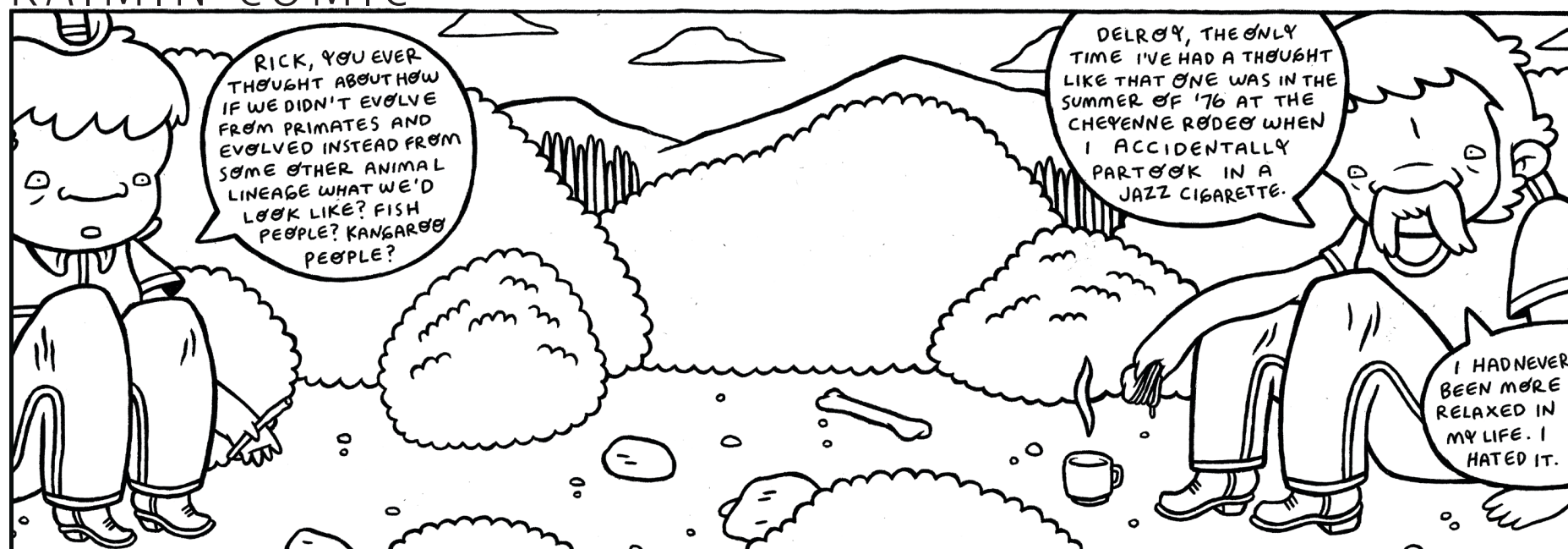
## CLASSIFIEDS

We Want You!

We are looking for friendly, enthusiastic team members for full-time and part-time positions. Flexible scheduling available. Customer Service and cash handling experience preferred. Must be able to lift 50 lbs occasionally, 25 lbs regularly and stand for long periods. Some cooking and Food Prep. Please, no phone calls! Applications can be picked up at Ole's Country Store #11, 1600 S. Russell St.

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## KAIMIN COMIC



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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

# Headline: UM brought us back. Now it has to keep us safe.

Well, it's official. This week marks the FiFtEeNtH DaY oF InStRuCtiOn, and as of press time, there's been no campus shutdown. Nice job defending your den, Grizzlies.

This 15th day, Wednesday, Sept. 9, is the last day you can drop a class on Cyberbear to get a full refund. Coincidentally, it's also the day UM has planned, finally, to release a first set of numbers of COVID cases on campus.

As UM gears up to publicize testing statistics and coronavirus-positive rates from Curry Health Center for the first time since the pandemic started — and as we simultaneously commit to fall semester by finalizing our (for the most part in-person) tuition payments — it's important to talk about responsibility.

"Oh, BOOOOO," you might be saying. "When is everyone going to SHUT UP about responsibility?!" And we get it. But hear us out. Because we're talking about institutional accountability.

We'll soon know what COVID really looks like on campus. We'll be financially locked in to our classes. We're here, and UM wants us here to stay.

This week, in our cover story, we check in with students living on-campus. How is dorm life going during a semester when a midnight trip to the bathroom, down the hall, without a mask, could get you written up? (True story.)

It's so easy, isn't it, to place the responsibility (and blame) on an individual? It's easy to send an email to thousands of 18- to 22-year-olds, asking them to consider social

distancing over Labor Day weekend; and it's easy to blame them when they go out anyway and come back infected.

This is not to say that individuals don't need to act responsibly. The only way this school year is going to work is if every single person does their part, in the dorms, during classes and on Friday nights. You are not exempt from the rules.

UM, like every other institution, is trying to solve an unsolvable problem: How do you maintain a functioning society in the middle of a pandemic, when, in reality, if the country could all just completely shut down, we might curb COVID-19?

Is the solution outdoor classes under tents that leak rainwater? Or clearly marked hallways and classrooms dictating where everyone should sit? Or Healthy Griz Kits,

maybe?

We don't know. We're not sure UM does, either.

As we move forward, as a student body, we need to hold one another accountable. But more than that, as we watch other universities across the country threaten to discipline (and in some cases, expel) students who don't follow all of the rules, we need to hold accountable the institution that decided to bring us back together in the first place.

LIKE IT? HATE IT? WISH WE WERE DEAD?

Email us your opinions at [editor@montanakaimin.com](mailto:editor@montanakaimin.com)

## ICYMI

(In case you missed it)

UM is releasing campus COVID numbers on Sept. 9. Here's our first piece about what it's going to look like:



Our resident videogame review writer breaks down upcoming game releases here:



TikTok keeps recommending wild Starbucks orders. Thank God one of our arts reporters splits her work time with us and one of the local Starbs. She spills the deets here:



Missed last week's cover story? We covered Disability Student Services, and the extra burdens UM's students with disabilities face:



## SUDOKU

Difficulty: Easy

					2	7		5
			3					
	6	1						9
		7			9			
		4	2	5				
	8	2		4		3	9	
3			6			2		
				7		8		6
4			1					

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Edited by Margie E. Burke

### HOW TO SOLVE:

Each row must contain the numbers 1 to 9; each column must contain the numbers 1 to 9; and each set of 3 by 3 boxes must contain the numbers 1 to 9.

Answers to Last Week's Sudoku:

2	5	7	3	4	9	1	8	6
1	3	8	5	6	7	4	2	9
4	6	9	2	8	1	5	3	7
6	2	5	1	7	8	3	9	4
7	1	4	6	9	3	8	5	2
8	9	3	4	2	5	7	6	1
9	7	2	8	3	4	6	1	5
3	4	1	9	5	6	2	7	8
5	8	6	7	1	2	9	4	3

# Briefs: The last week in a nutshell

### COVID NUMBERS IN MONTANA

Total Montana cases are up nearly 900 in a week, as of Monday, yet total active cases are down by 35 in the same time. Missoula County also reported 13 fewer active cases than the week before. Over 8,300 Montana cases have been reported since the start of the pandemic, with about 900 people recovered in the past week. Hospitalization rates continue to rise, with over 163 statewide, nearly 30 more than last week. In Missoula County three people have died since the start of the pandemic, with no new deaths in the last couple of weeks. Statewide there have been 118 deaths, 14 in the last week. (Mazana Boerboom, Griffen Smith)

### UM OFFERS LATE-START 'PURSUE YOUR PASSION' CLASS

The Office of Research and Creative Scholarship is encouraging women on campus and across the state to enroll in its late start "Pursue Your Passion" one-credit class,

which will start on Sept. 22. The class is meant to uplift women and encourage them to pursue a new project, initiative, business idea, etc. The program intends to create an environment where women support one another, aren't afraid to share ideas openly and have access to inspirational female mentors. Offered in partnership with the Davidson Honors College, the course will be taught by a UM alumna and will be available to all UM students, at any level, as well as staff, faculty and the general public. (MB)

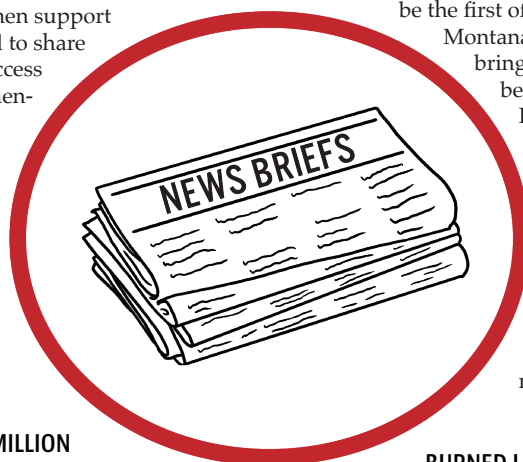
### MISSOULA TO GET \$19.1 MILLION FILM STUDIO

A Georgia-based film studio company, Shadowcast Partners, and Montana Studios announced plans last week to buy land a mile north of the Missoula airport to build

a film and television studio. The facility is set to cost over \$19 million and will cover 120,000 square feet of space. According to a Missoulian article the studio will be the first of its kind in

Montana and should bring economic benefits with it.

Final approval by the county is expected by December and the construction could take between 10 and 15 months. (MB)



### BURNED LAND ON MOUNT SENTINEL IS RESEEDING

The fire that burned over 24 acres on the side of Mt. Sentinel will be getting treatment and reseeded from the City of Missoula

and the University of Montana. According to reporting from the Missoulian, the fire released nutrients into the soil, and allowed more growth for future plants. The city of Missoula said it has a GPS location of different plant species across the mountain, which they will use to restore native species and kill weeds. (GS)

### LIBRARY LAUNCHES VIRTUAL EXCHANGE WITH JAPAN STUDENTS

The Maureen and Mike Mansfield center launched a virtual exchange program with Tohoku University in Japan. According to UM news, the program will take 40 students from the Japanese department and the Franke Global Leadership Initiative at UM and pair them with 20 students from Tohoku. The project is designed to foster cross-cultural engagement and address global environmental issues, which include plans to meet with homesteaders in Glacier National Park. (GS)

## Blotter: Internet crimes and theft zoom into UM

GRIFFEN SMITH

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### 8/21 CREDIT CARD CULPRIT

A student who was out of town during the summer returned to her apartment and found a family member had gone in her room and took her credit cards without permission. The rude relative used \$163 between July and September before getting caught. The investigation is ongoing, and the suspected card snatcher could face misdemeanor theft charges.

### 8/27-8/30 BIKE THEFT GALORE

UMPD reported a whopping four bikes were stolen in a time span of three days from dorms all across campus. None of the cases have a suspect, and like past thefts, UMPD Lt. Bradley Giffin said there is not

much the police can do. "It is a big business here," Giffin said. "It is frustrating, students should try to invest in a good lock." UMPD also recommended registering one's bike to help track it down if it is ever stolen. You can reach that page on UMPD's website under bicycles. here.

### 9/1 SCANDALOUS SKATEBOARDS

Skateboarders unknowingly scraped up a newly resurfaced cement walkway from the summer outside of the

University Center, causing UMPD to respond. Though their tricks and flips meant no harm, UMPD reported the boards caused damage to the new surface, and warned the skaters to find a new place to do kickflips.

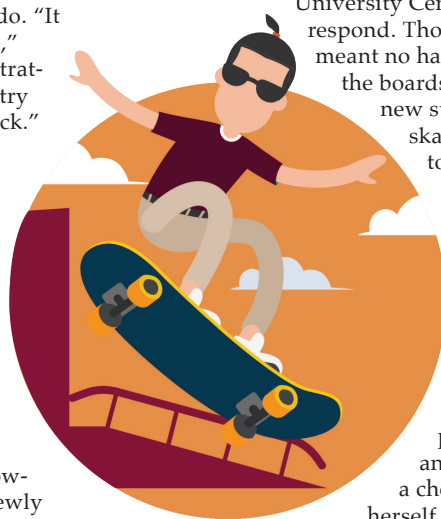
### 9/2 EMAIL SCAMMERS STRIKE AGAIN

Cybercrime struck again for an innocent freshman living on campus. The student clicked on an email from a person impersonating an employer, tried to cash a check, and quickly found herself down \$1,500, with no way to track down the suspect. Giffin

said this crime happens often to students. "This type of scam happens at least 10 or 12 times a year," Giffin said. "If it is too good to be true, then it is not true, nobody is going to send you a check for \$1,500 out of the blue."

### 9/3 FIRE ALARMS DO EXIST...

A student smoking some hippy grass in Jesse hall received a rude awakening when his dorm's fire alarm began to buzz, in response to the smoke in his room. When a personal alarm is triggered, Giffin said RA's must open the student's door to make sure there isn't a fire. The student was caught up in smoke and received a conduct violation.



## Try these fun and funky Friday night plans

ERIN SARGENT

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COLTON ROTHWELL | MONTANA KAIMIN

Who says we can't have fun on Fridays during COVID? Everyone. The CDC. Us, a humble college paper horoscope. Every email from Seth Bodnar encouraging us to defend our den. Anyway, it's time to get creative with our Friday nights.

**VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEP. 22):** Sit outside in the light of the moon and contemplate why you chose to take so many credits and not one, not ONE, is yoga. You could have become a yogi. You could be out here under the moon doing night yoga. You've gotta relieve this stress somehow.

**LIBRA (SEP. 23-OCT. 22):** We don't know...build a pillow fort maybe?

**SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21):** Take advantage of the fact that you and your roommates have already had to spend a frankly absurd amount of time together and make a personalized game of Guess Who featuring everyone on your shared shit list.

**SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 22):** Turn on some old jazz and try to cook something fancy, like Easy Mac. Pro tip: add in extra cheese, you bougie bastard.

**CAPRICORN (DEC. 23-JAN. 19):** Convince your roommate to learn partner acrobatics in the living room. You want to be like the people you see in public parks holding each other upside down or whatever.

**AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18):** Watch a compilation of all of the party scenes from "Euphoria" and wonder if you looked that cool at the last party you went to. Can you pull off "Euphoria" makeup? You're about to find out.

**PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20):** This is it. This is the perfect time to (re)download Duolingo and finally become fluent in Latin.

**ARIES (MARCH 21-APRIL 19):** Steal the login info for your prof's Zoom and have a little study party. And when we say study party, we mean drinking alone together with the other students in History of Rock and Roll.

**TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20):** Take a walk down memory lane and do that thing where you scroll through your camera roll over and over and look at pictures of you and your friends from back when COVID didn't exist. Look at you, you innocent little thing! So carefree.

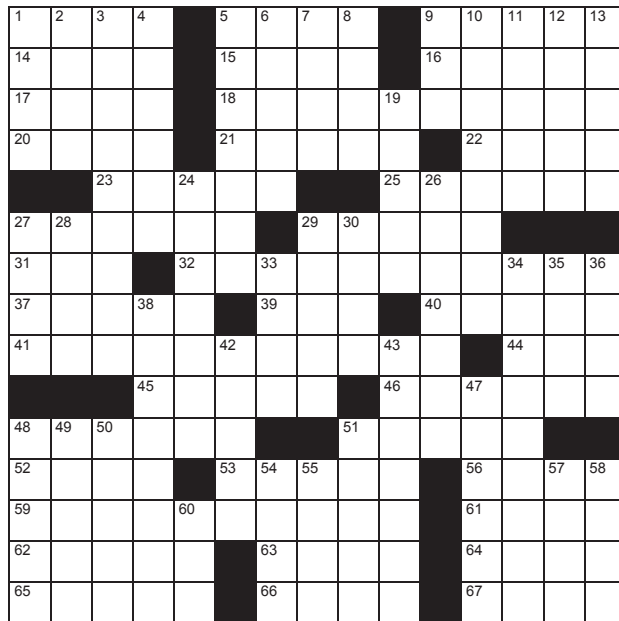
**GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20):** Your latest escape fantasy is dropping out and becoming a bartender. "But how can I learn if I can't go out?" you might ask. Answer: the cool cocktail people on TikTok who keep saying "one, two, three, four" in a really perky voice while they pour two ounces of vodka into a shaker.

**CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22):** Get yourself an ink fountain pen and a tall dusty candle and start writing letters to your professors about your homework being late. Seal it with red wax and one of those vintage stamp things.

**LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22):** Make a list of all of your semester plans. Then light it on fire. Screw it, honestly. Nothing is set in stone ever anymore, so why should your Degree Works be?

### The Weekly Crossword

by Margie E. Burke



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#### ACROSS

- 1 Impudent talk
- 5 Creditor's concern
- 9 Lowest-pitched singer
- 14 Aid and \_\_\_\_\_
- 15 Square feet, eg.
- 16 Worrier's risk
- 17 Sign of sorrow
- 18 Spectators' area
- 20 Island near Corsica
- 21 Overcharge, big time
- 22 Word ending a threat
- 23 Stair part
- 25 It's more than a job
- 27 First act
- 29 Tiny bit
- 31 Bakery item
- 32 Horoscope writers
- 37 Open, as a jacket
- 39 Order between "ready" and "fire"
- 40 True-blue
- 41 Shorthand-writing
- 44 It may be inflated
- 45 Words to live by
- 46 Ultimate
- 48 Gives out
- 51 Prepare, as tea
- 52 Seriously injure
- 53 "Get lost!"
- 56 Semimonthly tide
- 59 Give life to
- 61 2017-19 series, "\_\_\_\_\_ with an E"
- 62 Film part
- 63 Similar (to)

- 64 Small change
- 65 Durable fabric
- 66 Lady's man, briefly
- 67 "-zoic" things

#### DOWN

- 1 Fill to excess
- 2 Son of Adam
- 3 Beachy cocktail
- 4 Back problem
- 5 Swordlike weapons
- 6 Trial partner
- 7 Steady guy
- 8 Sharp taste
- 9 Clear the tables
- 10 Clark Kent, to Superman
- 11 Bathroom item
- 12 Common thing?
- 13 Military command
- 19 Model stick-on
- 24 Cruise stop
- 26 Priest's helper
- 27 Creative work
- 28 Pub purchase
- 29 Group of three
- 30 Cavort
- 33 Scale deduction
- 34 Startling revelation
- 35 Tattered duds
- 36 Token taker
- 38 Soon to land
- 42 Painter's plaster
- 43 Army camp dwellings
- 47 Dennis of comics, for one
- 48 Not quite right
- 49 Knight's weapon
- 50 Giblets part
- 51 Lustrous fabric
- 54 Rugged rock
- 55 Gardener's tool
- 57 Kournikova of tennis
- 58 Guinea pigs, maybe
- 60 Ten C-notes

#### Answers to Last Week's Crossword:

A	L	S	O		A	H	O	Y		P	A	R	I	S
F	O	O	L		N	A	P	E		O	B	E	S	E
R	O	O	D		T	R	E	S		K	O	A	L	
O	P	T	I	C	I	A	N			H	E	L	P	E
		H	E	R		S	A	F	A	R	I			
A	D	S		E	A	S	I	L	Y		S	L	I	P
T	R	A	D	E	R		R	A	W		H	O	N	E
L	O	Y	A	L	T	Y		B	I	S	E	C	T	S
A	V	E	R		I	O	N		R	E	S	O	R	T
S	E	R	E		S	U	I	T	E	D		M	O	O
			D	E	A	R	T	H		G	O	O		
C	A	V	E	R	N		R	E	C	E	P	T	O	R
A	L	I	V	E		T	A	R	O		R	I	D	E
M	U	S	I	C		A	T	O	P		A	V	O	N
S	M	E	L	T		D	E	N	Y		H	E	R	D



# 'Thrifty Thursdays' look to simplify finances

JACOB OWENS

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The Financial Education Program kicked off its first "Thrifty Thursdays" workshop for the fall with "Paying for College 101."

"Thrifty Thursdays" is a weekly workshop with the goal of educating attendees on college tuition and personal finances. The sessions are open to UM staff, students and prospective students.

The two-hour sessions will be offered at 11 a.m. and 5 p.m. every Thursday this semester.

"It's changed so much since even when I went to school on how to get loans and everything, so it's a changing landscape, and I'm glad that we're educating everyone again," Andrea Janssen, the program coordinator of the Financial Education Program, said.

The next three workshops will cover paying for college, public service loan forgiveness and repaying student debt, respectively. The fourth week of each month is set for a more fun topic, such as "Traveling on a Budget" or "Weddings on a Dime."

Morgan Hahn has been a student intern with the Financial Education Program for over a year. He has helped plan "Traveling on a Budget" among other workshops.

Hahn is paying for college on his own, making him an "independent" student.

"It's amazing to offer the students that help and that guidance when you are on the other side of it and understand it," Hahn said. "To give that back and to help other people navigate this process is really fulfilling."

Janssen said the workshops have fewer than five students on average, which allow the presentations to be more personalized than a typical slideshow.

The Financial Education Program also offers one-on-one sessions to go over an individual's specific finances, according to program manager Jolie Heaton.

Heaton explained that students who attend the workshops are often unaware of the true impact their finances can have on their futures and may not even be aware of how much debt they are in.

"Their financial life is just as important as their emotional and social life when it comes to attending school because it's interrelated," Heaton said.

Hahn added that students are also sometimes unaware of limit on how much money they can borrow. Loans are capped at roughly \$57,000 for "independent" undergraduate students like Hahn.

"Thrifty Thursdays" are one of several resources the Financial Education Program has for students. The program was created in 2013 and sits within the office of Student Success.

The program helped UM rank fifth in the country for its financial literacy program in 2019, according to LendEDU.com.

Several of the workshops are on the University of Montana Financial Education's YouTube



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channel. Additional information can be found on the program's Instagram account, @umfinancial.

This week "Thrifty Thursdays" will cover Public Service Loan Forgiveness. The workshop is aimed to help those working for the government or a nonprofit organization and those who are planning to.

The Zoom link for the workshops can be found on the UM Events Calendar.

## Missoula city council passes \$238 million budget for 2021

HANNA CAMPBELL

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The Fiscal Year 2021 Missoula City Budget, which was passed Aug. 31, centers on funding affordable housing, emergency response and a more controversial aspect – the police.

The budget was passed by a 9-3 vote, with John Contos, Jesse Ramos and Sandra Vasecka voting against the motion. It totaled \$238 million, and it received a lot of public comment.

The budget did not raise taxes, due to the pandemic and its economic fallout, according to a Missoula County Summary report. It also focused heavily on community development, investing \$50,000 in the Trinity Housing Project. This project will contribute

to the building of a homeless navigation center that will offer services to help the homeless population.

A Mobile Crisis Response Team will also be funded through the budget. This team will consist of two mental health professionals who respond to a mental health emergency call first, instead of law enforcement, or will accompany first responders to the scene.

Lowell Elementary will also receive funding to initiate a free before-and after-school program. It will be run by the Missoula Parks and Recreation Department.

The budget also allocates \$750,000 toward the Affordable Housing Trust Fund, which helps to provide housing for low-income people.

The police department will receive

\$148,980 in funding, which almost doubles its funding for extra training from previous budgets. This budget includes crisis intervention training, implicit bias training and use of force and de-escalation training. It also includes funding for security cameras, vehicles and body cameras. The city council did decrease the amount the police department asked for by \$77,352, which would have covered the cost of overtime police training. The City Council also denied the department's request for \$45,000 to purchase a new motorcycle.

Although most city council members supported the new budget, Ward 6 council member Sandra Vaseck was one of the three to oppose it. According to her, the Missoula Redevelopment Agency has too much flexibility in its budget.

"We are doing too many pet projects, such as making the city look nicer, rather than fix the core issues of the city, such as the roads," Vasecka said.

She did, however, support the increase in funding for the police department and voted to block every cut to the department.

"Although I am disappointed that the overtime for training was cut as well as the replacement motorcycle, I am happy that it didn't go as far as other cities in the U.S. have seen," Vasecka said.

Council members who were for the new budget said it effectively emphasized important features, such as funding social aspects and balancing the different points of view, according to reporting done by the Missoulian.

# Bomber 'Maid in the Shade' brings past generations to life

GRIFFEN SMITH

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A low rumble of turning propellers and aging metal consumed the runway of the Museum of Mountain Flying Aug. 31 as the famed plane "Maid in the Shade" touched down in Missoula. The World War II B-25 bomber, one of 34 remaining planes of its class, represented a past world for onlookers.

"Flying the plane is cool from a cool factor, it's got a lot of power," pilot Trevor Henson said. "But the truly rewarding part is knowing that you're flying a piece of history."

The bomber is part of the Arizona Commemorative Air Force, a non-profit dedicated to maintaining historic planes. While the plane has not seen combat since 1945, it still flies on "missions" to educate the public on how its flight crews braved dangerous conditions and fought in the largest war ever. Its pitstop in Missoula is part of a Western United States tour by the Commemorative Air Force to teach history and inspire the next generation of aviators.

Maid in the Shade first hit the skies in early 1944 from the Mediterranean island of Corsica. The crew specialized in infrastructure attacks in Italy and North Africa. After 14 missions, the plane was not used for the rest of the war.

In its next life, the plane served as a crop duster for a farm in Alabama. As the '70s approached, the bomber was ready to be scrapped, but a last-minute decision left the plane in the hands of the Commemorative Air Force.

A team spent 20 years restoring the air craft, and now they fly it around the country. Henson said the experience is much more memorable than seeing an out-of-commission plane.

"It's a little different when you can bring something that still flies, you can hear it, go experience it, and then let people crawl around the airplane on tours," Henson said. "It's not just sitting behind ropes in a museum. The plane truly brings history alive."

Barbara Komberec and her brother Jay Enman waited in the hangar for the plane to arrive. Their father, Malcolm Enman, served in a B-25 during WWII, and flew 55 combat missions across the Pacific, earning him the Distinguished Flying Cross.

"I think they were pretty busy at that job and needed the pilots, and that was their upward limit as far as I know," Komberec said.

The siblings' father was not the only Montanan to hold ties to the aircraft. On the inside bomb bay doors, a Missoula man named David Thatcher left his signature.

Thatcher grew up in Eastern Montana and moved to Missoula after the war. Though he flew in part with Maid in the Shade, he is remembered best for flying a different plane in the famed Doolittle Raid in 1942.

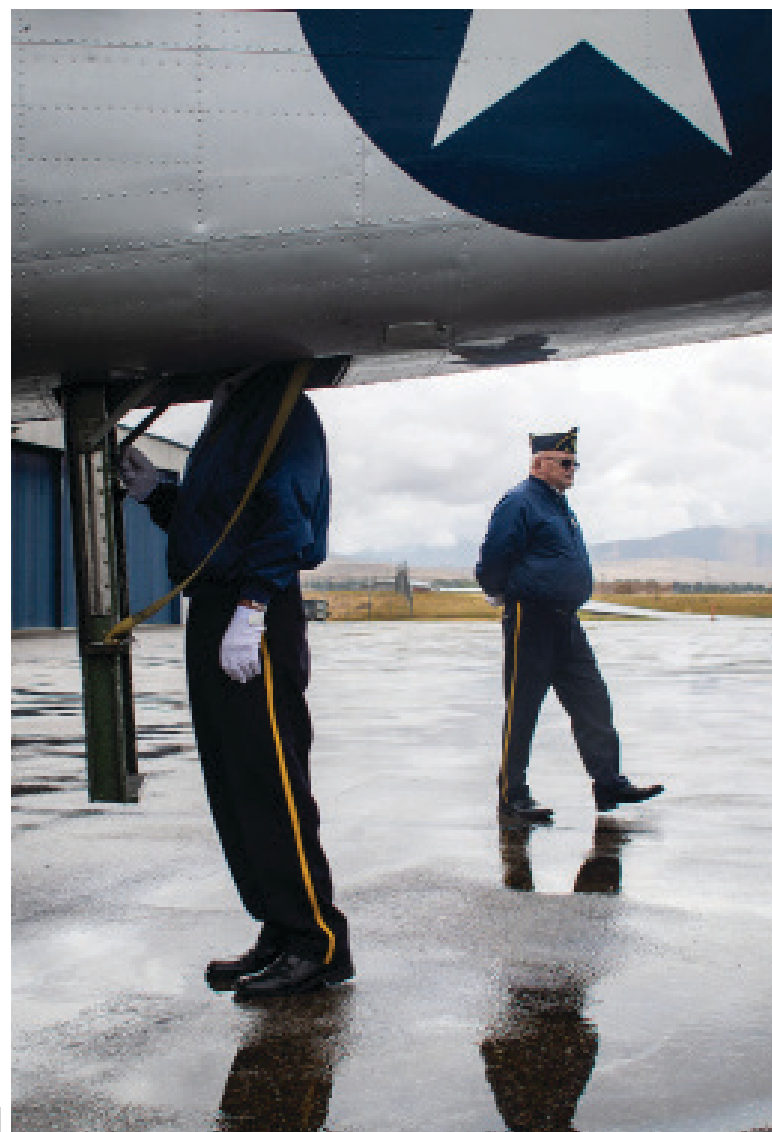
The raid featured just over a dozen B-25 bombers, which flew off an aircraft carrier in the Pacific and unloaded bombs onto Tokyo before abandoning ship near China. The mission was the first successful attack on mainland Japan, according to UM visiting professor James V. Koch.

"The raid the Missoulian was on didn't do much damage," Koch said. "But what it did is get the Japanese attention and force them to devote a lot of their sources to defend their homeland that they might have used elsewhere in the Pacific."

Brothers Mason and Liam Connor, who are in elementary school, stood at the edge of the concrete where the plane came to rest. The boys came with their grandfather to see the historic plane, the likes of which they had never seen before. When it flew over the tarmac, they watched with wonder.

"As a kid growing up, we used to always go to the airports just to watch the commercial aircraft come and go," the boys grandfather, Michael Connor, said. "It was almost emotional watching the flyover, super intense."

After being in Missoula for the week, Maid in the Shade traveled to Twin Falls, Idaho to continue its summer tour.



**TOP:** Two veterans from the Ole Beck Veterans of Foreign War Post 209 in Missoula check out the plane after landing. A crowd of veterans, museum-goers and plane enthusiasts gathered to watch the landing and explore the plane, one of only 34 of its kind still flying. **SARA DIGGINS | MONTANA KAIMIN**



**BOTTOM:** The crew of 'Maid in the Shade' applaud the national anthem and gun salute that greeted them at the Museum of Mountain Flying. They flew in from Bozeman early that morning. **SARA DIGGINS | MONTANA KAIMIN**





# SLICES OF LIFE:

STUDENTS REFLECT ON CAMPUS LIVING IN A

STORY BY NIKKI ZAMBON

PHOTOS BY EMMA SMITH





# PANDEMIC

For the last three weeks, the Kaimin's coverage has focused, sometimes exhaustively, on the coronavirus. The pandemic has filled our news sections and driven our feature stories.

We covered the University's refusal to release campus-specific COVID data and the faculty senate's demand for that same data. Later, we were the first to report that UM would release the numbers on Sept. 9 — the 15th day of instruction and the last day for students to withdraw and receive a tuition refund. We've examined the impact UM football's canceled season could have on Missoula, and how students with disabilities face disproportionate challenges while learning remotely or navigating UM's COVID-adapted campus.

Our reporters have been working hard to make sure this paper reflects campus life in the time of the pandemic. We've talked to many people, and paired their personal stories with the news. Sometimes, though, the clinical detachedness of numbers, statistics and policies threatens to overshadow the individual student experience. And conveying that experience is part of the Kaimin's responsibility.

Our first cover story explored UM's reopening and the significant role students living on campus play in keeping the University open and healthy. It raised the question, is it fair to expect these students to shoulder the burden of an entire campus's safety? This week, reporter Nikki Zambon and photographer Emma Smith set out to capture student testimonies nearly a month after move in day — slices of life that demonstrate what campus living is actually like right now.

Below are three profiles that examine, in microcosm, the varying and personal challenges students face. From frustration and confusion on campus COVID policies to nostalgic longing for years past, students reflected on the challenges and pressures of living on a socially-distanced campus.

—Addie Slanger, Features Editor

## JEREMYAH ROMERO-GATZ

"I'M JUST 17. NO ONE GIVES A SHIT WHAT I HAVE TO SAY."

"It happens all the time that people are invited to other people's dorms," Jeremyah Romero-Gatz, a freshman from Missoula living in Miller Hall, said. "It happened to me the other day, and I had to say, 'No, I'm not comfortable with that.'"

Romero-Gatz spoke with me on the phone while riding down a hill on their bicycle. They said they could talk and bike at the same time, no problem, but, later that evening, I received an extremely detailed text message from Romero-Gatz recounting a nasty crash that occurred shortly after we chatted. They have been biking a lot these days, trying to be in nature as



University of Montana freshman Jeremyah Romero-Gatz stands outside Miller Hall, where they live. Romero-Gatz expressed frustration at trying to follow COVID-19 precautions as best they can, and trying to get others to do the same.

much as possible before summer bows its head and takes its leave. Romero-Gatz had heard talk of students partying, but chose to ignore it.

They described how simply "hanging out" now makes normal college peer pressure look like child's play.

"It's not the same level of social stigma as drinking — like, instead of just getting drunk, you could kill your grandma."

Miller Hall is known for being a close-knit community with an emphasis on LGBTQ+ inclusivity. One of the hardest parts of living under socially-distanced

conditions is the inability to actually spend time with your community.

Not only does the community suffer from the distance, but dorm floors are significantly less crowded this year, too. In order to keep the bathrooms and hallways uncluttered, UM Housing decided to reduce the number of students on each floor. For example, under normal guidelines, Jesse Hall can house 40 students. This year, the administration set the cap at 30. Currently, only 21 residents occupy the building.

The students living in UM housing



aren't allowed to have visitors, rooms are restricted to the residents occupying them and nobody else is permitted inside.

The University opened student housing with health protocols, such as tequila-scented sanitizer at every corner, and an expectation that 18-year-olds not touch one another.

Romero-Gatz has been abiding by these rules as much as possible, but expressed frustration at their own helplessness.

"Me telling people that we have to follow these protocols for the benefit of all of us doesn't matter because I'm just 17. No one gives a shit what I have to say."

## CASSIDY MARTINEZ

"HONESTLY, WE WERE ON OUR OWN."

"Do you mind if we take the elevator? I'm still recovering from surgery."

Cassidy Martinez, a junior living in Miller Hall, was wearing bright, rainbow-colored Crocs.

She slid her left foot out of the pocket of vibrant plastic and showed me a purple scar, running down the top of her foot like a racing stripe.

We were headed to the Oval, an area spacious enough to have a socially-distanced discussion about dorm life during a pandemic.

It had been three weeks since the University imposed strict new health protocols in response to the coronavirus. On campus, students were getting used to wearing masks in classrooms, maintaining a six-foot distance and entering and exiting buildings single-file.

After several hours a day, these protocols can wear you down. The masks are hot and humid, like a custom-fit steam room for your nose. Hands begin to crack with tiny lesions from all the washing. But that all fades away the moment you walk out of your last class, tear off your mask and head to your protocol-free apartment to forget about the pandemic. For those who live in student housing, however, such relief is more difficult to come by.

Martinez had foot surgery last spring and was told she couldn't put 100% of her weight on her foot for eight weeks. Earlier this summer, she planned on driving up to Missoula with her grandma and 11-year-old beagle, Leo, to settle into a handicap room in Miller Hall. Instead, the University administration temporarily placed her in Lewis and Clark Village on the first floor.

"The way they explained it was that it was a lot safer to have one bathroom for three people than one bathroom for 30

people," she said. "And they felt it would be a healthier option than on-campus living."

Martinez said Lewis and Clark Village wasn't too packed in the summer. Though her dorm had two bedrooms, she was the only student living there at the time. Protocol was relaxed. Wash your hands, wear your mask — kind of like the rest of Missoula. The only notable restriction was the laundry room, which had a maximum occupancy of one person.

Martinez finally moved into a single room in Miller hall the first week of August.

"Honestly, we were on our own for that first bit of time. We had to figure out where we were going to get food for that first two weeks," she said.

Although UM's food pantry, Pizza Hut and a few other dining options were available, the campus meal plan didn't begin until school started. Martinez laughed when she told me about the two weeks of "meal preps" she did while still living in Lewis and Clark Village: peanut butter and jelly sandwiches, Costco muffins and anything that could be microwaved.

The University implemented what they called a "staggered move-in," in hopes that eager students wouldn't put the community, or their entire semester, at risk. UM only allowed students to park in certain lots on campus for twenty minutes to unload items. They could also schedule a two-hour reservation beforehand, but there was no overnight parking.

Martinez was upset that she couldn't park overnight in her dorm lot. She was nervous about getting home late from work and walking across campus alone in the dark. In the past, she would have called GrizWalk, a service in which students escort people across campus in a funky, golf-cart-type vehicle between dusk and dawn. To Martinez, a student-run GrizWalk is essential. When young people learn to take care of one another, communities like the University thrive. But now, GrizWalk is staffed not by students, but members of the UM Police Department.

Of the many COVID rules that come with campus living, mask usage is the most crucial. If students are seen by Resident Assistants (RAs) without a mask, they receive a verbal warning. If they are seen without a mask for a second time, they receive a "documentation," or, as some students refer to it, "being written up." For further mask infractions, students must meet with their Area Coordinator, the hall supervisor, to assess their behavior and the potential consequences.

At midnight two weeks ago, Martinez went down the hall to use the restroom and forgot her mask. Her resident assistant (RA) reported her, but she had no prior warnings or incidents. She brought it up



Cassidy Martinez wearing her favorite face mask. As a member of the LGBTQ+ community, Martinez says that this mask best resembles who she is.

with her Area Coordinator and they said there was nothing they could do. What had happened, happened.

So far, Martinez feels conflicted about living on campus but relieved to be able to have an in-person semester at all. At this point, people are playing the waiting game.

As she picked up her bag to return to her dorm, she turned and said what many of us have repeated over the last three weeks:

"I guess we just have to do our part to stay safe and hope for the best."

## LOGAN LASHER

"IT'S NOT MY PLACE TO SAY WHAT STUDENTS CAN AND CAN'T DO OUTSIDE OF THE DORM."

Logan Lasher, a 20-year-old second-year resident assistant (RA) in Craig Hall, said student move-in this semester was sad compared to last year.

He had gotten used to the excitement in the air — post-summer reunions that prompted shrieking, big embraces and playful banter. This year was different. He greeted people by asking them to please wear their masks. He reluctantly, if not dutifully,





Craig Hall RA Logan Lasher wears his favorite mask, which he says spreads positivity during this time. Lasher says the hardest thing about being an RA this semester is not being able to connect with his residents due to restrictions and social distancing.

told large families they could not accompany their loved one into the dorms. The sweet magic of it all had been transformed into a dystopian action-heist movie, in which cars moved nonsensically around cluttered lots and furniture appeared and disappeared in 20-minute intervals.

Yes, this year was different.

The RAs were given the same spiel as the students: you are accountable for your actions on campus and should behave accordingly. Abide by health protocols and don't do anything against normal school policy. But beyond that, Lasher said he was in the dark. If someone tested positive for COVID-19 in his dorm hall, he wouldn't know about it. Privacy rules on campus

make it impossible to know if someone contracts coronavirus, unless the students themselves share the information.

This semester, Lasher said he has written significantly more documentations of student misconduct than he had at the start of previous semesters. The shift in rhetoric from "written up" to "documentations," he explained, is an attempt to discourage a punitive, intimidating living environment. "Craig Hall is known as being one of the less-cooperative buildings. Mostly, I'll ask people to put their masks on and they apologize and do it because they don't want to get in trouble, but sometimes they just walk right past me, or grab a disposable one from the front desk and shove it in their pocket,"

he said.

The students sometimes feel that getting reported for being with their friends is unfair. For example, student athletes, who often reside in Craig Hall, have raised a point that is both troubling and understandable to Lasher: 'Why do we have to wear masks in our dorms around our teammates when we train with them everyday?' He has tried to explain that not wearing masks puts the whole building at risk, but said some students just don't want to hear it.

Lasher lives alone, in a room that looks out on a large, grassy area of campus. He often sees his residents hanging out in big groups without masks.

"At times, I feel nervous. But it's not my

place to say what students can and can't do outside of the dorm," he said.

It's going to get cold soon, though, which Lasher worries could jeopardize adherence to social-distancing rules. If the guest policy were lifted, he worries that students would become careless and put other residents at risk by congregating in large groups inside the dorms.

When students argue about COVID-19 protocols, Lasher tells them he knows what a normal campus looks like. How fun and lively it could be. He also knows what a campus looks like when it gets shut down due to a worldwide pandemic.

So, Lasher argues, why not just wear the mask?



## Arts

# Today's Warrior Video Contest gives a voice to Native youth

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In a video created by Sydnie Racine, she depicts herself holding a sign labeled "Missing." In the center of the sign where a missing person's photo would go, she's written the word "Forgotten."

Racine is trying to get the attention of people around her, who are offscreen, and asking if they've seen her sister. Frustrated by their indifference, she covers her hand in red paint and presses it over her mouth. This image is followed by real missing notices for Indigenous people in Montana.

The 21-year-old Racine, a member of the Blackfeet Nation, submitted this video to the Today's Warrior Video Contest, held by the All Nations Health Center. The contest is intended to give Native youth the opportunity to create and share content that portrays what inspires them or makes them feel resilient when life is challenging. The event was part of Suicide Awareness Week.

"The video contest isn't, from my understanding, completely focused on suicide," Racine said. "It's about what makes you stay alive and reasons to stay alive. It's about resilience. I'm alive because these girls are missing."

Faith Price organized the contest. She is a community prevention coordinator on a suicide-prevention grant at the All Nations Health Center. Price said that Native Americans are under represented in the media and that the goal of the contest is to give the contestants the platform to share their voices.

"We wanted to think about our resilience and strength and get students working with their strengths," Price said. "I hope they see themselves in this contest."

The range of categories, from "Fast and Fancy" to "Self-Love," invited creativity. One contestant shared images of significant landscapes for the "My Land" category. Another shared a story about how basketball gave her confidence to be a leader in the face of discrimination.

Racine's message was clearly depicted by the hashtags on her sign: "MMIW," or Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, and "NoMore." Her red handprint represents the violence against Indigenous women in the United States and Canada, among other countries.

In a study from the Department of Justice in 2016, Native American women were surveyed on their experiences with violence. Of the over 2,000 who participated, 84% had experienced violence in their lives.

According to a study published in 2015 in the Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues, media representation of Native Americans characters in film and television is zero to 0.4%. The study states that, from team mascots to Hollywood characters, representations of Native Americans in the media lean toward the stereotypical and inaccurate.

"A lot of social media is whitewashed," Racine said. "When a Native youth can get on Facebook and see all Native youth showing what they enjoy and what keeps them alive, it creates this platform that more Native youth can identify with and belong to."

The videos premiere at Paddlehead Stadium on Sept. 9, and are on the All Nations Health Center's social media.

## TODAY'S WARRIOR VIDEO CONTEST



### CONTEST DETAILS

Native youth are invited to submit a short video by Sept 5 to premiere during Suicide Prevention Week. Open to ages 10-17 & 18-24.

- Create a 15-60 second video in your category of choice!
- Share on FB or IG with #TodaysWarrior and #AllNations
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# 'Tenet': confusing but wildly entertaining

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Movie-viewing lesson number one: Never get cocky going into a film directed by Christopher Nolan. That's the exact mistake I made with "Tenet," which, after three delays thanks to COVID-19, has finally been released in theaters.

I bragged to my friends about how well I followed the dream within a dream within a dream mission of "Inception." I patted myself on the back when I comprehended the black hole science in "Interstellar" in spite of the blaring IMAX speakers.

But I naively let down my guard with Nolan's latest project. I zoned out for one sentence of dialogue about halfway through, and before I

knew it, I was lost.

Indeed, "Tenet" is possibly Nolan's most complicated and, unfortunately, most emotionally removed film to date. But if you don't let the intricacies frustrate you, you'll be sucked in by the film's thrilling action, cataclysmic stakes and cinematic flair.

Our protagonist is called, well, the Protagonist (John David Washington). He's a CIA agent who's been recruited by the titular organization to stop World War III. And the only way to do that is, apparently, time travel.

Anyone can go to the past by reversing their movements and literally traveling backwards. The process will help the Protagonist and his team reach time-bending oligarch Andrei Sator (Kenneth Branagh) and stop him from causing

world destruction...I think.

Comprehending "Tenet" is particularly challenging because, unlike "Inception" and "Interstellar," it doesn't give us a human core to hold onto. The Protagonist is not a particularly interesting character, and most of the dramatic heavy lifting is given to Sator's wife, Kat (Elizabeth Debicki). Her struggle to break free from her prison of a marriage is engaging but underexplored.

Fortunately, Washington is more than up to the challenge of making the protagonist engaging. He's got the style, quips and emotional range we all want in an action hero, and I'd love to see him explore the genre more in the future.

In addition Nolan's directing eye is more on-point than ever. With little of the CGI that held

him back with "Inception," he's able to paint each frame into a darkly intense picture. So many modern blockbusters forget the camera's power in telling a story, and it's refreshing to come across a popcorn flick that's so pleasing to look at.

The action scenes also take full advantage of the aforementioned inverted movements. No two soldiers, cars or bullets move in the same direction, allowing for some inventive set pieces.

"Tenet" is not for everyone, and some viewers may have less patience with its narrative flaws than I did. Nevertheless, you'll likely find something to enjoy in this smarter-than-average thriller.

Just be prepared for repeated viewings. And don't get cocky.

# Piano, but make it yearn

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Listening to "Animadversions" is like holding a breath.

Images of villas in summer, switching from espresso to mineral water to wine throughout the day, and soft glances race across the minds of listeners. If that makes you think of "Call Me By Your Name," you're not far off from what this album is trying to evoke. Each track is like a page break in a novel, different enough to create distinction, but not so different that it feels uninvolved.

The pianist Theo Alexander has dug through his musical archives, transforming songs that once disappointed him as a composer. Instead of letting the weight of a composition rest on another talented pianist, he takes it on himself and treats it like an old friend.

Cassette-like production wanders over much of the composition like grainy film. It creates an illusion of being old but not antique.

Quick piano bursts through. It doesn't slow down, exciting listeners as they try to figure out what could come next. And then, like a wave grazing the shoreline, it slows down. The speed change is immediate, but imperceptible to the casual listener. As soon as a listener gains comfort in a track, it's gone, quickly replaced by a new sense of security.

"Animadversions" is an LP that sounds like it could last forever.

"Two Versions" feels like a dreamscape. Superb skill and childlike joy seem to overwhelm Alexander. It feels like the artist is trying to prove that he can live in two worlds, and that those worlds aren't that different after all. Alexander never says a word, but it still seems like he's desperately trying to get a point across.

This record is bright and hard, a constant push and pull between what listeners think they want and what they'll actually get. It's satisfying, if a little unnerving. Every note that sounds like a mistake at first listen becomes intentional, driving home a sense of fighting against perfection.

"Declining Patterns" feels like trying to desperately hold onto the last days of summer.

Alexander creates a graceful art. It's a mystery how he can float over keys so softly. And just when we think we can exhale, a hard note brings us back to the reality of the piece.

"Cessation Wounds" melds persistence, indicated through a steady, reliable piano line, with unexpected notes. This track is like climbing up a hill, completely breathless, but continuing because you're almost at the top. Excitement builds to a summit.

By "Matter of Balance," the final track, sadness and confusion have turned to unbridled joy. We can't help but wonder if this is how Alexander felt as he reworked each track, turning something that was once seen as a failure into an obvious success.

As the track smoothly finishes, we can finally exhale. It seems like Alexander can, too.



CONTRIBUTED BY THEOALEXANDER.BANDCAMP.COM



# Drum circle channels lunar rhythm

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The day of the most recent full moon, Peter and Sarah Schaeffen set up drums of all shapes and sizes. They sat on a grassy knoll in Silver Park, exposed to the strong wind and bright evening sun. Sarah removed her shoes. Peter closed his eyes and began to drum quietly, listening to his own rhythm and then Sarah's as she joined in.

The Schaeffens own Sacred Ally, an "empowerment arts" center, and this was their first Full Moon Drum Circle since COVID-19. They were siphoning the heightened energy and tension caused by the full moon with drums and rhythm.

Sarah works as a healer at Sacred Ally, focusing on techniques like movement and meditation.

"Energy of the full moon is outward and chaotic," Sarah said. "Drumming is a good way to channel the energy of the full moon."

They began the event by drumming together. Soon, four other drummers joined.

"It's been many Moons," Sarah said to the attendees as they sat and hesitantly began to drum. Peter demonstrated different ways to hold the drums, from under the arm to kneeling and holding the instrument between the knees.

"We're definitely not professional drummers," Peter said. "That's what makes it fun."

The rhythm emerged tentatively, as a handful of drummers tried out their instruments, from hand drums to standing drums, each following their own beat and searching for a way to merge the sounds together.

"It's sometimes awkward in the flow, as people are trying to get to know each other," Sarah said.

The drummers exchanged instruments periodically. Morgan Meatovich, a UM student and returning drummer, tried the steel drum and shook rattles experimentally. She was there with her friend, Max Morris, who had dropped by the last drum circle before COVID-19.

Sacred Ally is home to a variety of classes centered around movement and yoga, and hosts drum circles every full moon. Meatovich was there because she enjoyed the creativity of drumming, but she also recognized the energy of the full moon.



Luc Mugondozi, left, and Max Morris drum along with a group in Silver Park, on the evening of Sep. 2, 2020. A basket full of different instruments sits in the middle of the drum circle, hosted by Sarah Peter Schaeffen. **LIAM MCCOLLUM | MONTANA KAIMIN**

"The drumming is a call to the power," Meatovich said. "And just absorbing that, it's a powerful thing."

Sarah said that the tension and energy can influence people in strange ways — even preventing them from being able to sleep. Lore, and a quick Google search, generally confirm this and suggest the moon can cause more issues — even crime.

However, UMPD Lieutenant Brad Giffin, who has more than 30 years in law enforcement, is skeptical.

"There's no rhyme or reason to the

increase or decrease in crime," Giffin said. "My opinion would be that it doesn't seem to make any difference. When people feel like committing crimes, they do."

Whatever the impact of the moon might be, the drummers of the Full Moon Drum Circle laughed a lot — at their own music or with each other. Between faltering rhythms, they talked about life and work, or ways to improve their beat.

"It's nice to have people connect," Peter said. "It makes a sense of community."

## JOURNALISM JOB

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# Former players help UM men's ultimate frisbee team stay on track

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When Ty Lynch and Patrick Stewart first started playing ultimate frisbee at UM, they didn't expect that in just a few short years, they would be the coaches. Now, they are at the helm of the UM men's ultimate frisbee team, Smokejump.

"It's really weird to be a coach. Neither of us knew how to throw when we first started playing, and then we ended up becoming captains and coaches.

"It's really interesting to look at how far we've come," Stewart said.

Stewart joined Smokejump after going to an Ultimate tournament to watch friends on the women's team, Pillowfight, play. He said that he met some of the guys and then showed up to their practice

the next week.

He was joined by Lynch, who arrived on the recommendation of a friend. Stewart has been playing Ultimate for the past eight years, and Lynch has played for seven.

Between playing in college on the Missoula Ultimate club team, Lynch and Stewart have 32 seasons of Ultimate under their belts.

"I didn't show up thinking that I'd be playing for this long, and then doing things for the community," Lynch said.

For the current captain of Smokejump, Scott Glickman, a sophomore at the University of Montana and a handler on the team, this community is a huge part of why he plays Ultimate.

"The community and all the people you meet is the best part of being on the team," Glickman said.

He added that he's really hoping that the freshmen get to experience going to a tournament this year, because that's where the community is showcased.

"Everyone is so nice. The first rule of Ultimate is 'spirit of the game,' so it's all about respecting your teammates and the other team," Glickman said.

Typically, during the fall, Smokejumper would play in three or four tournaments, but due to COVID-19 these tournaments have been canceled. The spring season is uncertain as well, but USA Ultimate, which acts as the governing body for the sport of Ultimate, will be reassessing the possibility of a spring season in December. A normal spring season would consist of sectionals, regionals, and nationals games.

"Two years ago, we got fifth at regionals," Glickman said.

In order for a team to qualify for nation-

als, it would have to place in the top three in the regional tournament.

"There's a lot of the teams that are super good, so we aren't super good, but getting fifth means we're pretty good," Glickman said.

Looking towards the future, Glickman spoke with optimism about the freshmen who joined this year, and looked forward to showing them what tournaments look like. He hopes that they will have the opportunity to play this spring.

In the meantime, he said, they are looking into the possibility of playing Montana State University's Ultimate team this fall.

"We are thinking, maybe if we all wear a face mask, we could do a tournament with them," Glickman said.

# UM women's ultimate frisbee team thrives amidst COVID-19

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The University of Montana women's ultimate frisbee team, Pillowfight, saw a big increase in membership this year, despite a downward trend of new participants in Ultimate throughout the United States.

According to USA Ultimate's membership trends in 2019, the number of new players is increasing, but the increase has been smaller for the past two years. In 2018, USA Ultimate noted a membership increase of 4.37%, as compared to an increase of only 1.23% in 2019. However, recruitment does not seem to be an issue for Pillowfight.

"This is our first practice with all the new people, and we have like 22 people here, which is pretty great!" said Grace Stephens, a senior and co-captain of the UM women's Ultimate team. "Only seven people are returners, so it's a majority of new people, which is exciting."

Pillowfight recruited students this year by posting about the team's practices on its social media accounts, as well as running a table at the Bear Fair on campus.

"The whole point of this is to bring a sport to specifically women that a lot of women haven't played before," Stephens said. "We get a lot of women who have never played a sport before, so that's really cool to get to introduce them to this."

This semester will look a bit different. Usually Pillowfight would play in three or four tournaments with other teams. But coronavirus guidelines prohibit interstate travel for Ultimate tournaments. Even without being able to play in tournaments this fall, Stephens said that the team is excited to be practicing.

"I want us to just focus on being the best players that we can, even though that sounds kind of cheesy," Stephens said. "We don't really know when our season is going to start, or if we're going to have a season, so rather than focusing on the people we want to beat, I want us to focus on working on ourselves and working on us as a team, and being really close and communicating really well, and having a lot of fun doing all of that."

According to Stephens, Ultimate is unique in that the focus of the game is sportsmanship. Stephens said that, despite the rivalries in other sports, Pillowfight is very close with the women's Ultimate team at Montana State University. She hopes that they may get a chance to play against them this fall.

"You usually leave the field making friends with the other team," Stephens said. "That's what I love about this team, and this sport that I've made new friends."



The University of Montana women's frisbee team captain Grace Stephens leads a drill during practice at Toole Park on Wednesday, September 3, 2020. **ZACH MEYER | MONTANA KAIMIN**



## Sports

# From bovines to blocks: the story of Alicia Wallingford

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When she wasn't playing volleyball or working on schoolwork in high school, UM volleyball player Alicia Wallingford would slide on her cowboy boots and go check on the market cattle she owned. But she and her brother weren't the only kids in their school who owned cowboy boots.

"You have other lives depending on you making sure you feed them on time. It made me grow so much as a person," Wallingford said. "Marketing an animal to a professional taught me a lot."

Wallingford is a sophomore who bounced around majors before deciding to study Wildlife Biology at UM. She is listed as a 6-foot-tall middle blocker on UM's volleyball roster.

In the summer of 2020, she became a lab technician at the Valett Ecology Lab at UM where she studied fish populations in the Clark Fork River. She traveled across western Montana to different sites on the Clark Fork and was featured on the UM volleyball team's Instagram doing so.

She primarily focused on river restoration efforts and the effects of mining on the river. She still works for the lab.

Before she was studying fish for UM, she was a two-time All-State player at Columbia River High School in Vancouver, Washington. She was a team captain as a junior and senior and helped the Chieftains advance to the semifinals at the Washington 2A State Tournament in 2018. She also helped lead Columbia River to a District IV championship in 2018.

While in high school, she also raised and sold market cattle. She said that simultaneously raising cattle, playing volleyball and doing schoolwork helped her develop important time management skills.

She graduated from Columbia River with honors and is a member of the Davidson Honors College at UM.

"She is exemplary in the classroom," said UM head coach Allison Lawrence. "She is invested and has a growth mindset."

She decided to attend UM after visiting it, and has played one year for the Griz so far. In her freshman year, she appeared in five matches. She posted a career-high two blocks against Portland State in 2019.

"She attacks the court just like she attacks the classroom, she's curious about her own development and is constantly looking for ways to grow," said Lawrence.

Wallingford was named UM Volleyball's Most Improved Player in 2019.

UM volleyball will not play in 2020, as the Big Sky conference postponed fall sports until spring of 2021 in an Aug. 14 decision. In the meantime, Lawrence is happy with the experience her team is getting.

"The biggest silver lining in this whole situation is that it gives us more prep time with this young, inexperienced team," Lawrence said.

There is only one senior and two juniors on UM's 2020 fall roster. Two of these three upperclassmen are transfers. UM's roster also includes 14 sophomores and freshmen, including Wallingford.

UM volleyball has continued to practice in the fall of 2020, wearing masks when not on the court.

"Right now we're all so grateful to be back, this extra training time has been crucial for the team," Wallingford said.

UM finished 2019 with a 7-23 overall record and a 6-12 conference record. UM also showed promise toward the end of 2019, winning five out of nine games. One of those games was against rival Montana State on the road. UM volleyball has previously lost to MSU in the teams' first matchup of the season.

The Griz lost 1-3 to Northern Colorado in UM's first matchup of the Big Sky Tournament in 2019.

Before the season was postponed, UM was slated to take on Oregon State and Gonzaga in Missoula to open the 2020 season. The volleyball team had also planned trips to Chicago and North Dakota for tournaments.



University of Montana sophomore Alicia Wallingford in the Adams Center Auxiliary Gym on Sept. 3, 2020. The six-foot-tall Griz volleyball player started a job as a lab technician at the Valett Ecology Lab at UM over the summer. **MATTHEW TRYAN | MONTANA KAIMIN**